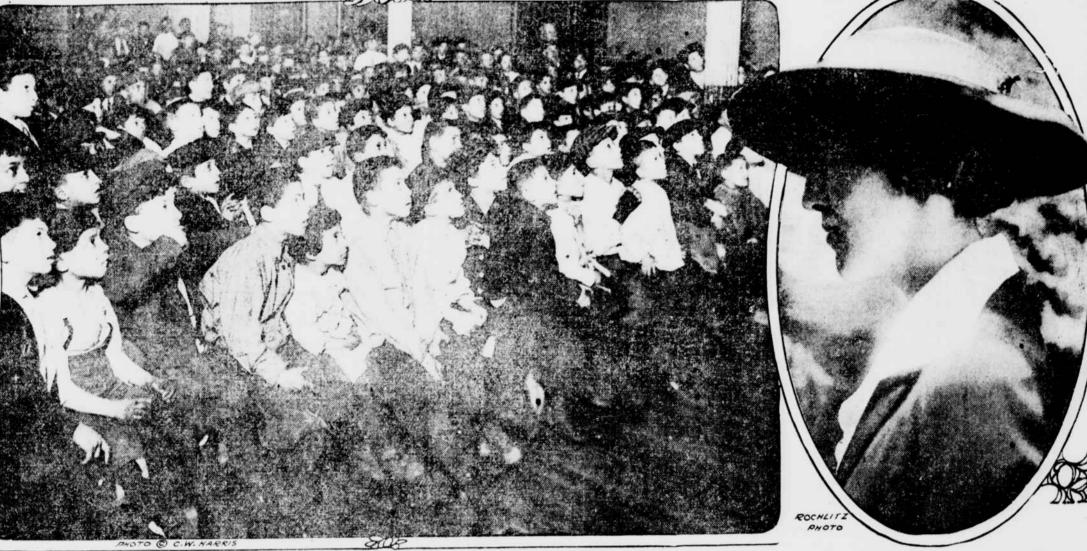
NEWSBOYS' HOME CLUB A GOOD CITIZENSHIP MILL





MISS ELIZABETH PEABODY STEWART.

WATCHING MOTION PICTURES IN THE NEWSBOYS' HOME CLUB.

MISS ANNE RIGHES **TO convert probable gargeters lated by registers, but only by way of draws and analysis of the converting of the conve

NOTES AND COMMENT FROM THE WORLD OF MUSIC

OPERATIC IDOLS AND JEALOUSIES

Gladiators and Musicians in Ancient Rome --- Eighteenth Century Partisanship.

By H. E. KREHBIEL.

I WAS a bit bewildering and also a bit grievous for the writer to observe in an editorial utterance printed in this journal last Thursday that the directors of the Mctropolitan Opera Company had done an incomprebensible thing in not re-engaging Madame Destina for next year; bewildering and grievous because a seasoned observer and commentator on the opera had supposed that so judicious a body of men as the directors who have maintained our opera for years, sometimes at a considerable expenditure of their private means, had probably acted upon well reasoned as well as well seasoned judgment in making plans for their future business. The failure of the directors to do what the editorial writer would like to have seen done was to him as incomprehensible as the "enforced retirement" of Madame Fremstad * year ago, because, so we learn, the singer's voice had lost none of its loveliness, her singing had not declined in artistic merit and she has a large and distriminating group of followers who are regretting that she has not been heard in many parts which she includes in her repertory. Of course we cannot sparrel with our colleague; that would be discourteous. Equally of course we 60 not want at this juncture to discuss whether or not Madame Destinn was as tseful a member of the Metropolitan Opera Company during the last season as the indubitably has been heretofore, whether or not her art has deteriorated of whether or not Messrs, Gatti and Toscanini ought to have given her opporfunities to sing in operas for which she was not cast; that would be ungallant toward the lady and a meddling with the business affairs of the directors. A line of thought evoked by the article may, however, possibly be pursued for a

It is one of the anomalous things in connection with the opera- and only the opera in the department of public entertainments—that the public should take to itself the privilege of thinking it knows more about the affairs of the opera tompany than do the directors themselves. Is there a question as to the theagement or non-engagement of a singer? Every person who has been to the SIXTY FRENCH FOLKSONGS

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Glapbyrus and Ambrosius the flute, player and Pollio the kitharist. It was Pollio whom a lady of lofty rank so loved that she kept for her kisses the plectrum with which he had arrummed the strings of his lyre. That instrument she had incrusted with jewels, and for the sake of him who twanged it she did not hesitate to veil her face before the altar of Janus and speak the mystic formula after the priest. "What more could she do were her husband sick?" asks Juvenal; "what if the physicians had despaired of her son?") And Roman women fawned upon the gladiator Sergius, whose forehend was galled by his helmet, who sported a huge wen between his nostrils and "acrid rheum forever trickling from his eye." trickling from his eye."

But why go on? The ancient list is a long and varied one, and no doubt the public split itself into parties and quarrelled about the merits of fight. ers, singers, instrumentalists and dancers as vigorously 2,000 years ago

prima donnas and, it would seem, no prima donnas without public as well as prima donnas without public as well as private jealousies and squabbles and rancor. An entertaining and diverting chapter illustrating the truism may be extracted from the history of Italian opera in London. The coming of the prima donna, the Italian lady, of course, had to wait upon the introduction of Italian opera and so none of the great singers of the seventeenth century who were identified with the first hundred years of the lyric drama were heard in England. Scarcely had the first of the tuneful tribe appeared across the Channel, however, before there arose the rivalries and scanthere arose the rivalries and scan-dals which have made up a large part of the prima donnas's history ever since. The first of record was Margarita de l'Epine; but she sang margarita de l'Epine; but she sang only in Italian and in concerts and did



Patti at the Academy of Massa at the new under Abbey and Nilsson at the Metropolitan Opera House just built; but the struggle never partook of the hitterness or fantasticality of the social war which divided London into two camps in the days of Handel's operatic consulship. The rival prima donnas then were Cuzzoni and Faustina, who though they created parties that divided families, were never such

Mayor of the city, belonged to the musical as well as the fashionable set of the clear that divided in the clear that divided became her undoing at the elegant new establishment. He kept a diary, from which we learn that already in the first season of that Italia and the clear that the clear that a feet a while as it has obsessed the minds of local singers recently, and it depends on the clear that the minds of local singers recently, and it depends on the clear that the shows of the clear that the standard of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was that it was a monit of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was that it was a monit of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was that it was a monit of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was that it was a monit of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was that it was a monit of the said of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was that it was a monit of the countenance with the art-form whose only charm, and above all the private of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was the art and the said of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was the standard of all countenance with the art-form whose only charm, he said, was the standard of the climax of her rivairy with a market was an another than the climax of her rivairy with a market was an another than the countenance with the popularity of this said to have been in the provided the citizen of the said was the